IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 8, 18, 22, 29, and 39, as set forth below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining a metric for evaluating module schedules for a carousel, the method comprising:
determining an interval difference for an instance of a module on a carousel;
applying a function to the interval difference to determine a result for the instance; and
adding the result for the instance to a sum, the sum corresponding to the metric.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining an interval difference for each remaining instance of the module;
applying the function to the interval difference for each remaining instance to determine a result for each remaining instance; and
adding the result for each remaining instance to the sum.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
determining an interval difference for each instance of each remaining module on the carousel;
applying the function to the interval difference for each instance of each remaining module to determine a result for each instance of each remaining module; and
adding the result for each instance of each remaining module to the sum.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

adding a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of the instance equaling one; and

adding a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of the instance equaling negative one.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining an absolute value of the interval difference to determine the result for the instance.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a square of the interval difference to determine the result for the instance.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

determining a square of the interval difference;

adding one to the square of the interval difference to determine a number; and

determining a Logarithmic of the number to determine the result for the instance.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of determining a metric for evaluating module schedules for a carousel, the method comprising:

setting a sum variable to zero, the sum corresponding to the metric;

selecting a module of a carousel;

selecting an instance of the selected module;

determining an interval difference of the selected instance;

applying a function to the interval difference of the selected instance to determine a result for the selected instance; and

adding the result for the selected instance to the sum.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

selecting a second instance of the selected module;

determining an interval difference of the second instance;

applying the function to the interval difference of the second instance to determine a result for the second instance; and

adding the result for the second instance to the sum.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
selecting a second module of the carousel;
selecting an instance of the second module;
determining an interval difference of the selected instance of the second module;
applying the function to the interval difference of the selected instance to determine a result for the selected instance of the second module; and
adding the result for the selected instance of the second module to the sum.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
adding a penalty term to the sum when an actual interval of the selected instance equals one; and
adding a penalty term to the sum when an actual interval of the selected instance equals negative one.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising determining an absolute value of the interval difference to determine the result for the selected instance.

13. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising determining a square of the interval difference to determine the result for the selected instance.

14. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
determining a square of the interval difference;
adding one to the square of the interval difference to determine a number; and
determining a Logarithmic of the number to determine the result for the selected instance.

15. (Original) A method comprising:
providing a plurality of modules, at least one module of the plurality of modules having at least two instances;
generating a first module schedule for the plurality of modules;
determining a first goodness metric for the first module schedule;
generating at least a second module schedule for the plurality of modules;
determining a second goodness metric for the second module schedule;
selecting one of the first module schedule and the second module schedule in response to the first and second goodness metrics; and
encapsulating a carousel exhibiting the selected module schedule into a transmission.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
determining which of the first and second goodness metrics is an optimum goodness metric; and
selecting one of the first module schedule and the second module schedule corresponding to the optimum goodness metric.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, the optimum goodness metric corresponding to a lowest goodness metric.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of evaluating module schedules for a carousel, the method comprising:
providing a plurality of modules, at least one module of the plurality of modules having at least two instances;
generating a plurality of module schedules for the plurality of modules; and
determining a goodness metric for each module schedule of the plurality of modules schedules, the goodness metrics for evaluating the plurality of modules schedules.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising identifying at least one module schedule of the plurality of module schedules having an optimum goodness metric.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, the optimum goodness metric corresponding to a lowest goodness metric.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising providing said at least one module schedule to an insertion device for encapsulation into a transmission.

22. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:
a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
determine an interval difference for an instance of a module on a carousel;
apply a function to the interval difference to determine a result for the instance; and
add the result for the instance to a sum, the sum corresponding to a metric for evaluating module schedules for the carousel.

23. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:
determine an interval difference for each remaining instance of the module;
apply the function to the interval difference for each remaining instance to determine a result for each remaining instance; and
add the result for each remaining instance to the sum.

24. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 23, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

determine an interval difference for each instance of each remaining module on the carousel;

apply the function to the interval difference for each instance of each remaining module to determine a result for each instance of each remaining module; and

add the result for each instance of each remaining module to the sum.

25. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

add a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of the instance equaling one; and

add a penalty term to the sum in response to an actual interval of the instance equaling negative one.

26. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to determine an absolute value of the interval difference to determine the result for the instance.

27. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to determine a square of the interval to determine the result for the instance.

28. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

determine a square of the interval difference;

add one to the square of the interval difference to determine a number; and

determine a Logarithmic of the number to determine the result for the instance.

29. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

set a sum variable to zero;

select a module of a carousel;

select an instance of the selected module;

determine an interval difference of the selected instance;

apply a function to the interval difference of the selected instance to determine a result for the selected instance; and

add the result for the selected instance to the sum, the sum corresponding to a metric for evaluating module schedules for the carousel.

30. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

select a second instance of the selected module;

determine an interval difference of the second instance;

apply the function to the interval difference of the second instance to determine a result for the second instance; and

add the result for the second instance to the sum.

31. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

select a second module of the carousel;

select an instance of the second module;

determine an interval difference of the selected instance of the second module;

apply the function to the interval difference of the selected instance to determine a result for the selected instance of the second module; and

add the result for the selected instance of the second module to the sum.

32. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

add a penalty term to the sum when an actual interval of the selected instance equals one; and

add a penalty term to the sum when an actual interval of the selected instance equals negative one.

33. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to determine an absolute value of the interval difference to determine the result for the selected instance.

34. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to determine a square of the interval difference to determine the result for the selected instance.

35. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

determine a square of the interval difference;

add one to the square of the interval difference to determine a number; and

determine a Logarithmic of the number to determine the result for the selected instance.

36. (Original) An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

provide a plurality of modules, at least one module of the plurality of modules having at least two instances;

generate a first module schedule for the plurality of modules;

determine a first goodness metric for the first module schedule;

generate at least a second module schedule for the plurality of modules;

determine a second goodness metric for the second module schedule;

select one of the first module schedule and the second module schedule in response to the first and second goodness metrics; and

encapsulate a carousel exhibiting the selected module schedule into a transmission.

37. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 36, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

determine which of the first and second goodness metrics is an optimum goodness metric; and

select one of the first module schedule and the second module schedule corresponding to the optimum goodness metric.

38. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 36, the optimum goodness metric corresponding to a lowest goodness metric.

39. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:
a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
provide a plurality of modules, at least one module of the plurality of modules having at least two instances;
generate a plurality of module schedules for the plurality of modules; and
determine a goodness metric for each module schedule of the plurality of modules schedules, the goodness metrics for evaluating the plurality of modules schedules.

40. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 39, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to identify at least one module schedule of the plurality of module schedules having an optimum goodness metric.

41. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 40, the optimum goodness metric corresponding to a lowest goodness metric.

42. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 40, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to provide said at least one module schedule to an insertion device for encapsulation into a transmission.